LETTERS@METRO.US

FROM HOLLYWOOD BACK TO 'HOLLISTON' {page 13}

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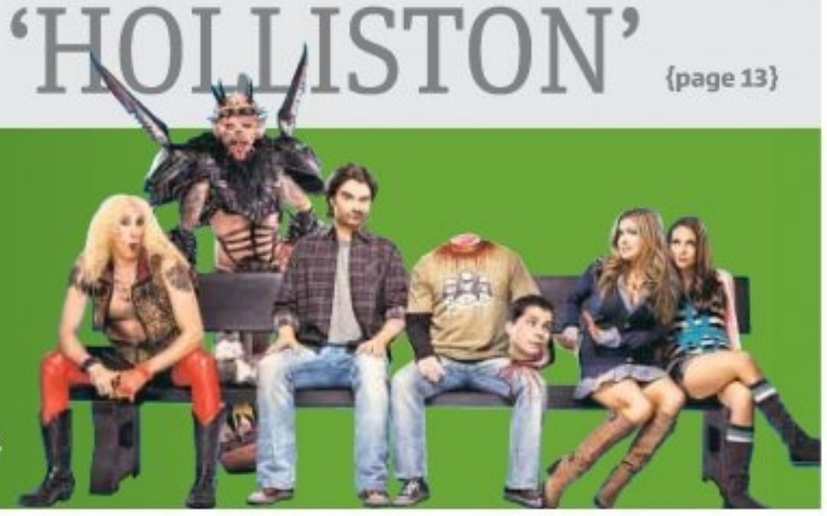
BOSTON
Monday, April 2, 2012



I. MERIC/GETTY IMAGES

MLB PREVIEW

Beyond chicken and beer

- Sox are putting last year's clubhouse partying behind them
- We predict where the Sox will finish in the AL East
- 90 wins isn't a sure thing in Bobby V's first year at the helm {pages 19-22}

▶ Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine had a positive outlook at spring training last month.

Metropolitik

Mitt Romney: The amazing anti-politician

- Likely GOP nominee says he's above the partisan divide
- It's almost as if he believes all things at all times {page 08}

It's been 365 days of winning

Hard to believe, but we've only known the benefits of tiger blood for a year {page 10}

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In the news

26%

Nearly a quarter of those surveyed said they were undecided in the upcoming Senate race between Republican Sen. Scott Brown and Democratic challenger Elizabeth Warren. The Globe poll of 544 likely voters showed that Brown has 37 percent of the vote compared to 35 percent for Warren. The margin of error is 4.2 percent. METRO

Today's local tweet

"#MBTA higher rates, worse service, and Harvard Square stop still smells like piss. Thanks for nothing."

@AMOHEDAS RANTING ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF PAYING MORE FOR T RIDES AND THE FOUL ODOR OF A RED LINE STATION

Same-sex marriage on trial

BOSTON. Lawyers from Attorney General Martha Coakley's office will be in court this week to fight off the Defense of Marriage Act.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit will hear arguments on the act, which renders same-sex marriages in Massachusetts invalid for all federal purposes, according to Coakley's office.

It was ruled unconstitutional in 2010, but that ruling was appealed.

A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday morning in federal court. METRO

Sweeping starts in the city

BOSTON. It's the most annoying time of the year for car owners. Street sweeping kicked off yesterday. Streets city-wide will now be swept on a rotating schedule that will last through Nov. 30.

To remind residents, the city placed portable, electronic message boards in some neighborhoods. METRO

Man shot inside mini mart

ROXBURY. Boston police was searching for the gunman who fatally shot a man inside a Roxbury convenience store early Saturday morning.

Officers responded to the store at 655 Warren St. about 4:30 a.m. and found the man inside with multiple gunshot wounds, police said.

The unidentified man was in his 20s.

Anyone with information can call 617-343-4470. METRO

Occupy not foolin'

Occupiers reappear at Dewey Square for April Fools' Day ◗ Jokes, sarcasm continue during march through city ◗ Police stand guard as movement makes its presence known ◗ Group reunited after eviction

PHOTOS: NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ About 75 protesters from the Occupy Boston movement marched from Dewey Square to the North End yesterday.

Occupy Boston took on a different message yesterday. "We are the 1 percent," a group of about 75 Occupiers chanted during a march along Atlantic Avenue toward the North End.

Yesterday, being April Fools' Day, was all about sarcasm and tongue-in-cheek commentary from the group that had remained out of the spotlight during the winter after being evicted from Dewey Square last year.

The scores of Occupiers reconvened at Dewey Square yesterday at about noon for another rally. This time, though, the only tent was about a foot high and was attached to the top of a small red wagon.

"It's April Fools'. Enjoy it," shouted one organizer as he encouraged others to make signs for yesterday's march. Some of the signs read "pollute the moon" and "tax the poor."

Timeline

Sept. 30: Dewey Square becomes a household name as scores of people set up camp there to launch the Occupy Boston encampment.

Dec. 10: Occupy Boston is evicted from Dewey Square, and 46 people are arrested as police move in.

April 1: After winter indoors, Occupy Boston returns to Dewey Square for an April Fools' Day rally and march.

Members gathered under the watchful eyes of about a dozen police officers, some in plain clothes who recorded the Occupiers with a handheld camera.

Despite the jesting, group members said the event served as an important reminder to people who may have stopped paying attention to the movement.

"The visual component is just as important so that people can see that we're still here," said Drisk, 25, of Boston, as he sat on the grass of Dewey Square yesterday. He did not want to give his last name and said he visited both the New York and Boston camps last year.

The group left the area in front of the Federal Reserve building just after 1:30 p.m. and marched along the sidewalk toward the North End. They were flanked by Boston police officers on bicycles and on foot.

While some members said they were not sure what the future held for Occupy Boston as the issue of re-occupying came up in conversations, yesterday's event served as a reunion since the group was evicted in December.

"There's a soul and there's a spirit to Occupy that's unavailable to people that aren't in touch with it," said Occupier Shane Aspinall, 26.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

▶ Occupiers used a parachute for a team-building exercise.

Spring training

BOSTON. As part of their event yesterday, the group conducted "spring training" exercises to learn how to better work together as members gear up for future rallies and marches.

The team-building exercise in front of the Federal Reserve building consisted of members gripping a large parachute and moving it up and down to keep balls from rolling off.

Not all were impressed.

"I did that in second grade," said a teen as he and others rode by the group on skateboards. METRO

Specials end Saturday, April 7th in store; Specials end Sunday, April 8th online. Anniversary Sale ends Friday, April 13th. Shop online at lordandtaylor.com. $20 bonus card discount will be applied before any other coupon offer. *Not valid on BCBG/BCBGMaxAzria, FitFlop, Gentle Souls, Herve Leger, Nicole Miller Bridal, Stuart Weitzman, Ugg; cosmetics, fragrances, beauty accessories; fashion watches; Fifth Avenue Swarovski Shop; charity-related merchandise; furniture, lighting, candy, gourmet, gift cards, restaurants, Beauty Salon, store services, prior purchases or as account payment. No cash back. Any unused portion will be forfeited. Valid for one in-store purchase only Tuesday or Wednesday, April 3rd and 4th, 2012. Savings Pass and online promotion code not applicable on Anniversary Sale Specials and Home Specials. All offers, unless otherwise specified, are not valid at Lord & Taylor Outlet Stores. Savings off original and regular prices. No adjustments to prior sale purchases. Selected collections; not every style in every store. Our regular and original prices are offering prices only and may or may not have resulted in sales. Advertised merchandise may be at sale prices in upcoming sale events. For the Lord & Taylor nearest you, visit our website or call 1-800-223-7440.

Eastie fire tears through building, displaces families

Sixteen people, including three children, were left homeless after a fire raged through their East Boston homes yesterday afternoon.

When fire crews arrived to 330 Chelsea St. about 2 p.m., there was heavy fire showing and flames coming out of the top floor windows.

About 160 firefighters went to work on the flames, pouring massive amounts of water on the three-story brick duplex.

"Many, many deck guns and hand lines in use," the fire department said on its Twitter feed.

As the fire continued to rip through the building, fire crews were ordered off of the roof and outside.

Shortly after the roof collapsed. Fire officials were worried about the structure and established a collapse zone around the building.

They were also worried about the fire spreading because of the close proximity of homes in the neighborhood. The closest door was 4 feet away, fire officials said.

The flames managed to spread past a fire wall and into the other side of the duplex.

Families on either side of the duplex were left homeless. Some families weren't home and those who were home were checked out by emergency technicians.

There were no reports of serious injuries. However, one firefighter was treated for an injured shoulder and a resident was treated for anxiety.

Fire officials estimated damage at $2.5 million.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Approximately 160 firefighters responded to the scene.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Danger of collapse

BOSTON. The intense flames caused part of the roof to collapse as fire crews worked to fight the blaze.

Besides the roof, part of the front of the building also collapsed — sending bricks crashing down on to the sidewalk below.

Building inspectors were expected to arrive at the scene and look over the damage to the building. It was unclear whether or not the top floor would have to be knocked down for safety reasons.

METRO/MN

"The building is still standing, but ... it doesn't look safe."
STEVE MACDONALD, BOSTON FIRE SPOKESMAN

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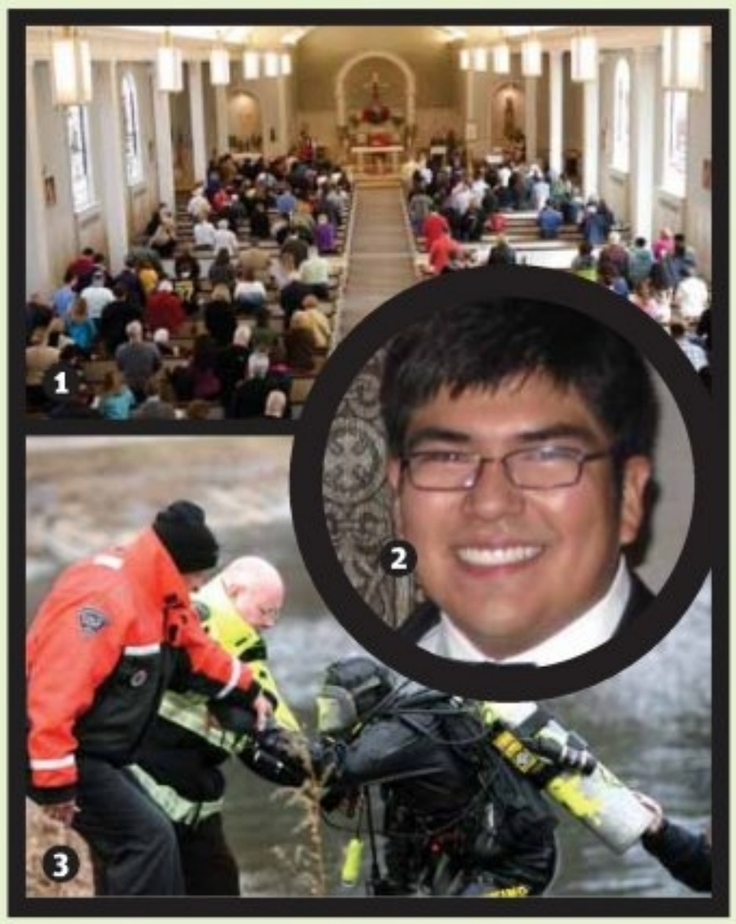
News in pictures

PHOTOS NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO



1 The family of a Boston College student missing for weeks attended a church service yesterday in remembrance of their son. The service at Saint Jude Church in Waltham called for Garcia's safe return.

2 Franco Garcia, 21, went missing Feb. 22 after a night out with friends near Cleveland Circle. His car was found parked and deserted at BC.

3 Police dive teams searched the Chestnut Hill Reservoir for days in an effort to find any sign of Garcia. However, their searches of the water and surrounding woods turned up nothing.

Two-bedroom home with spacious nursery and playroom in back.

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HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Santorum won't quit race; GOP leader calls for unity

The U.S. Senate's top Republican called on his party to unite behind leading presidential candidate Mitt Romney yesterday as rival Rick Santorum vowed to stay in the race beyond a likely defeat in tomorrow's Wisconsin primary.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell stopped short of endorsing Romney in an interview on CNN's "State of the Union" show. But McConnell did say the former Massachusetts governor would make an "excellent nominee" and left little doubt about whom he supported in the battle to take on Democratic President Barack Obama in the Nov. 6 election.

"It's time to turn our attention to the fall campaign and make the case against the president of the United States.

"It's important to get behind the person who is obviously going to be our nominee"

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL SAID, REFERRING TO ROMNEY.

"It's important to get behind the person who is obviously going to be our nominee," McConnell said, referring to Romney.

A victory in Wisconsin's primary tomorrow would give Romney an almost insurmountable lead in the Republicans' state-by-state nominating contest.

McConnell joined a chorus of other top Republicans who have called for the nominating process to wind down.

REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Santorum said a defeat in Wisconsin would not force him from the race and predicted he would do well in May, when several conservative states hold their primaries.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ National League for Democracy supporters celebrate their victory in the parliamentary elections outside the party headquarters.

Myanmar opposition claims major win for popular San Suu Kyi

Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi won a seat in parliament yesterday, her party said, after a historic by-election that is testing the country's nascent reform credentials and could persuade the West to end sanctions.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party claimed victories in at least 19 of the 45 available seats and announced to loud cheers that the Nobel Peace Prize laureate had won in Kawhmu, southwest of the commercial capital Yangon, raising the prospect of a sizable political role following a two-decade struggle against military dictatorship.

The charismatic and wildly popular Suu Kyi did not address the crowd but issued a statement asking supporters to respect the other parties.

REUTERS

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From Russia with bribes

▶ Russian playwright and oppositionist Natalia Pelevine at a recent demonstration.

Vladimir the Invincible: Putin has been re-elected President of Russia and can remain in power for another 12 years

But the successful vote masks an unstable reality: Russians are increasingly irate over the country's rampant corruption

Thanks to his comfortable win in the presidential election — 64 percent of the vote — and the weak political opposition, Vladimir Putin has little to worry about. Except the dollars, rubles and euros that are flowing in the wrong direction.

"Corruption is already presenting a serious problem for Putin," explains Lilit Gevorgyan, senior Russia analyst at IHS Global Insight in London. "Of course, corruption has been endemic in Russia and the Soviet Union for decades. But when Putin came to power in 2000, he used anti-corruption slogans to fight the oligarchs who were in his political opposition. Now people are saying, 'Under your rule new oligarchs have emerged.'"

Russia's chief military prosecutor recently revealed that one-fifth of the country's military budget is lost to corruption. In one survey, 42 percent of Muscovites admitted paying bribes. Russians quietly hand over cash for traffic fines, drivers licenses, kindergarten places and university admission. But until recently, they accepted the fraud because Putin's regime provided stability.

Today, citizens like Natalia Pelevine pose a remarkable threat to the president. Recently, the 34-year-old playwright and opposition activist tells Metro, she received documents allegedly showing $120 million in bribes being paid to Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov from two of Russia's wealthiest oligarchs, Alisher Usmanov and Eugene Shvidler. The documents, given to Pelevine by a former member of Shuvalov's staff, show the money being channeled through off-shore accounts. "There's nothing to prove that there was any commercial value in this payment," says Pelevine. "It was a bribe."

Pelevine has brought the documents to the prosecutor-general's office, which has told her it's investigating the case. "Some people think I'm crazy," she reflects. "In Russia, if you go against powerful people, things usually don't end well. But people's patience with corruption is ending."

Indeed, disgust over corruption, not Putin's politics, unites Russia's disparate opposition. "Corruption is the biggest issue in Russia right now," notes Jana Kobzova, a Russia expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "The fact that it's so widespread goes against the image that Putin has been cultivating for the past 20 years." That could cost him his job. Explains Gevorgyan: "In order to make fundamental changes, Putin would have to agree to a system where he himself steps down. And he'd never do that." The office of the president did not respond to a request for comment.

Pelevine has her own theory: "Putin will fire Shuvalov to show he's serious about corruption."

ELISABETH BRAW
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

'Some top officials buy their positions in power'

60 seconds with ...

Ivan Ninenko, Deputy Director, Transparency International Russia

Has the level of corruption gotten better or worse in recent years?
Worse, but it's hard to tell whether it has changed much in the past couple of years, because it was already so bad.

How far up does it reach?
High-level officials are assumed to be involved, though none have been convicted. Daimler was found to have paid bribes to government officials, but the officials haven't been indicted. And some high-ranking officials have essentially bought their positions — corporations pay people to get their candidate hired. And officials' expensive cars are another issue that citizens have started focusing on. Every day people ask about it on the Internet.

Will Putin root out the corruption?
I don't expect him to make any major reforms; he's not a reformer type. But he may bring in new ministers who will deal with it, especially since Russians really want new faces in the government.

▶ Ninenko

ELISABETH BRAW

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Death in a cell: The case of Magnitsky

In truth, Russians who stand up to corrupt officials end up in a bad way.

Sergei Magnitsky was a young auditor working in Moscow for Hermitage Capital, a London-based investment fund, when in 2008 he allegedly discovered that government officials had defrauded Russian taxpayers of $147 million.

A short time later, he was arrested and jailed. He died there one year later, after being severely beaten.

Now Russia has announced it will put the dead accountant on trial. William Browder, Magnitsky's American boss, who lives in London, also faces trial.

U.S. and British parliamentarians are now planning to ban officials named by Magnitsky from entering their countries, and Sweden's parliament wants to freeze their assets. ELISABETH BRAW

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▶ Mitt Romney won't stop until he's done an end to the health care bill that he himself inspired!

Mitt Romney has trust issues. The Republican presidential candidate, accused of having worn through more flip-flops than a spring break veteran, has earned a reputation of trustworthiness approximately commensurate with that owed to an Etch-a-Sketch. Over the course of his political career, but especially during the tendentious 2012 nominating process, the infamous "Massachusetts moderate" has become known for saying whatever needs saying, whenever it needs to be said, with the express goal of serving his political ambitions.

Cynical readers will note that this actually describes all politicians. Of course. But that doesn't mean we can't still hold Romney rhetorically accountable for his obvious dissembling. Take this past weekend for example, during which His Mittness addressed a Wisconsin crowd ahead of the state's primary tomorrow, touting his apparent immunity to partisan hackery.

"I didn't criticize in a public and personal way the Senate president or the speaker of the House," Romney said, claiming that as governor he was able to stand above the typical divide between the two parties. "They would attack me because that's what Republicans and Democrats do to each other. At one point, one of the two of them — I won't mention which one — sent me a note. And he said, 'I've noticed that you don't respond to my attacks, I'm going to stop attacking you.' And there began a better relationship."

You see? Just like his porous positions on abortion rights and the individual mandate, Romney was for bipartisan harmony before he was against it. He would never attack his rivals, because that's what those other people do, and he's not one of them. Except, of course, when he is.

Like that same day, when he accused President Obama of failing America and of having radically different views from the rest of us. "Our president doesn't have the same feelings about American exceptionalism that we do," Romney said within hours of his high-minded refutation of ad hominem attacks. "This president has failed us. ... He broke a lot of promises."

Romney, on the other hand, is a man of his words. All of them, unfortunately.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Because sometimes you only have time to skim the headlines:

- "Ron Paul: Romney-Paul ticket not happening" **POLITICO.COM**
- "Rick Santorum Is Sticking It Out, Wisconsin Win or No" **NYMAG.COM**
- "Gingrich and Paul Hang in There" **BLOGS.WSJ.COM**
- "NPR, Politico Are the April Fools on Obamacare" **BREITBART.COM**
- "Santorum: It's Not Even Halftime Yet" **NEWSER.COM**
- "A Crucial Question: Are We Shooting Enough Endangered Species?" **HOTAIR.COM**
- "Keith Olbermann's Angry E-Mail Trail Traces Breakup with Current TV" **THEDAILYBEAST.COM**
- "McConnell Says Romney 'Obviously' Will Be Nominee, But Stops Short of Endorsement" **NATIONAL JOURNAL**
- "Paul Ryan Says He 'Misspoke' About Testimony of Generals" **ABC NEWS**

MEET OCCUPY BOSTON

OB Open House
Monday, April 2nd, 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
(and the first Monday of every month)
Cathedral of St. Paul's, 138 Tremont Street
(opposite Park Street Station)

Join us and learn about what our Working Groups are doing and what actions are planned. Come find your place within the Movement!

Sunday, April 1st, Noon to 11:00 PM
Occupy Boston is creating a Day of Action
at Dewey Square. All are Welcome
(opposite South Station)

National Day of Action on Transportation
Wednesday, April 4th @ MA State House
Hearing: 3:00-5:00 PM, Rally & Speak Out: 5:00 PM

• No service cuts • No fare hikes • No layoffs
• No privatization of our treasured public transit system.
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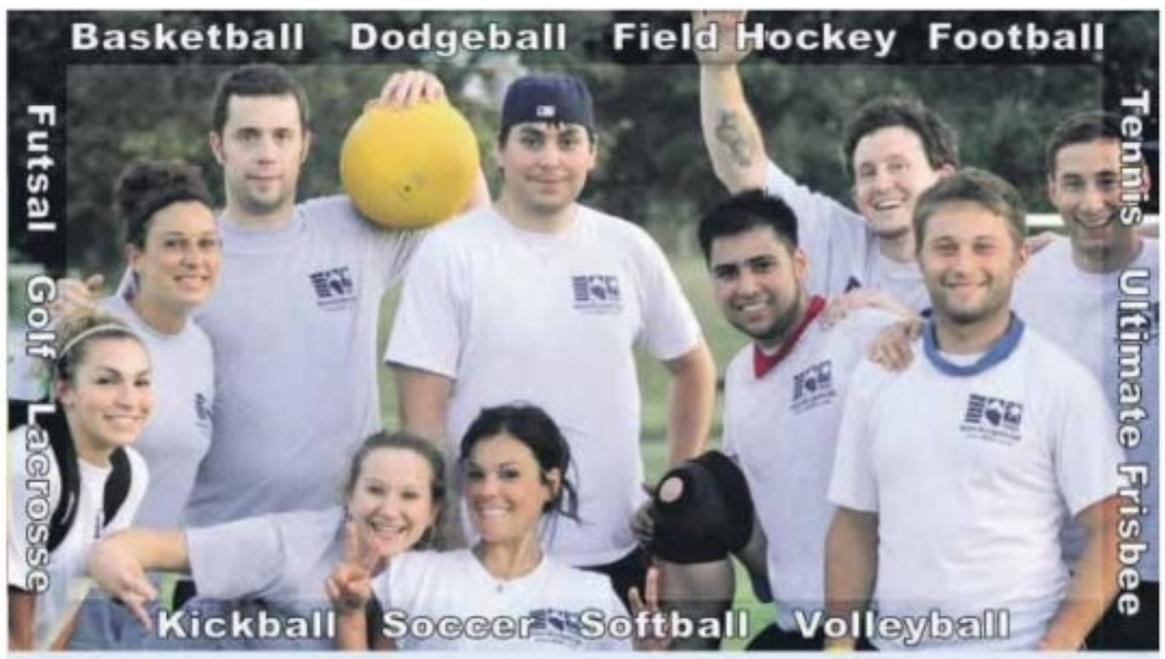

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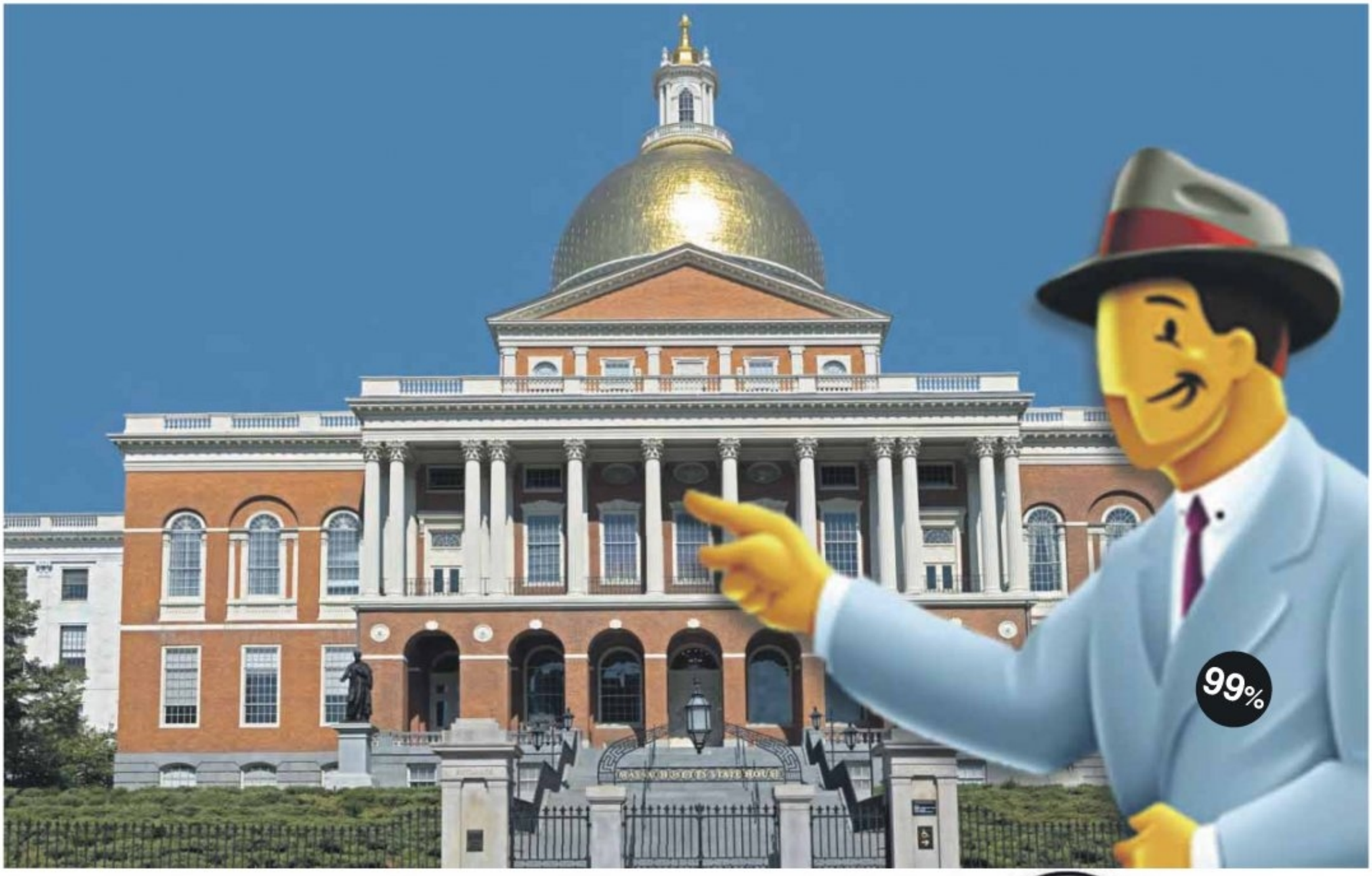

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April 4th, 2012
National Day of Action for Public Transportation
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at the State House

People's Hearing: 3:00p.m.
Rally for the T: 5:00p.m.
Candlelight Vigil: 8:00p.m.

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myentertainment

2

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Morning shows heat up this week

▶ Couric

▶ Palin

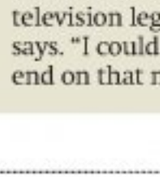
▶ Oprah

The "Today" show is responding to the missile that ABC hurled last week — the announcement that anchorwoman **Katie Couric** is guest-hosting "Good Morning America" — with a nuclear warhead of its own: The NBC morning show announced over the weekend that Tuesday's guest-host will be none other than **Sarah Palin** (yes, that Sarah Palin. We thought it was an April Fools joke, too).

To make things even more interesting, **Oprah** is stopping by "CBS Morning News" today to see her BFF, host **Gayle King**. According to a CBS press release, Oprah's coming to "discuss everything from the latest developments at OWN, her Leadership Academy and life after her daytime talk show."

Katie Couric, Sarah Palin, Oprah: It's as though this week's morning news ratings war was created just to give the rival networks' late-night talk-show hosts something to joke about.

Charlie Sheen: Oh, what a year



It's hard to believe, but it's been a full year since **Charlie Sheen**'s very public meltdown and the words "tiger blood" were launched into the public lexicon. Now Sheen is embarking on something of an apology tour. "I didn't recognize parts of who that guy was. I just wish it was somebody else's body. You say it's been a year — it's either been a day, or a hundred years," Sheen told **Matt Lauer** during an interview on the "Today" show last week. "I guess the plan was to reintroduce myself to America and to the media and say, 'Sorry about that, but here's what's happening now.'" Clearly, that didn't go as planned. Now Sheen is busying promoting a new TV show, FX's "Anger Management." "I couldn't have the 'Two and a Half Men' thing be my television legacy," Sheen says. "I couldn't have that end on that note."

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Garry Shandling knows what you've heard about him, Jenny McCarthy is a little shaky, Conan O'Brien is taking in some culture and Roseanne Barr is looking for a way out.

@GarryShandling
I hate gossip. Ask anyone.

@JennyMcCarthy
feeling earthquake-y. just sayn.

@ConanOBrien
The Smithsonian has a video game exhibit. There's even a tour guide who yells at you for not being outside on such a nice day.

@TheRealRosanne
how can I delete this twitter account-does anyone know? I dont understand twitter at all-I am 2 tech challenged for it-

Shandling

Talking points

Lohan celebrates freedom via partying

Despite advice from a judge that she should probably stop partying, **Lindsay Lohan** celebrated the end of her formal probation by throwing a little get-together at the Chateau Marmont, according to Radar Online. "Lindsay's guests ate paella and watched **Elizabeth Taylor**'s 'Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?' Lindsay was in an extremely good mood and grateful to be off of formal probation," a source says. "The party went until around 2 a.m. Alcohol was being served in moderation, but Lindsay wasn't seen drinking. It's just rather strange that Lindsay chose to have the party at the hotel, especially after what the judge said to her in court."

Lohan

Brand is philosophical

Don't worry about **Russell Brand** — he's doing just fine. "I'm doing well," Brand, who filed for divorce from **Katy Perry** late last year, tells People magazine. And apparently "well" means he's in a philosophical mood. "You don't need to brush it off if you don't get it on you in the first place," he says. "I don't have to let anything go. I don't hold on to anything negative. It's the same as zeroness." He's also not holding onto his recent arrest in New Orleans, which is "meaningless to me," he says. "It's like it never happened. It's meaningless."

Winslet wants to barf

While many still consider **Celine Dion**'s "Titanic" tune, "My Heart Will Go On," a classic, **Kate Winslet** is literally sick of it. "I feel like throwing up when I hear it. No, I shouldn't say that. No, actually, I do feel like throwing up," Winslet tells MTV News. "I wish I could say, 'Oh listen, everybody! It's the Celine Dion song!' But I don't. I just have to sit there, you know, kind of straight-faced with a massive, internal eye-roll."

Gaga's tame birthday night

Lady Gaga had a not-so-wild celebration for her 26th birthday, treating her friends to some time at the gym before grabbing dinner with her parents, according to Us Weekly. "Her friends filled the studio, and they had a blast," a source says of Gaga's visit to SoulCycle, an L.A. spin class studio. "She requested [**Bruce Springsteen**'s] 'Thunder Road' because it's one of her favorite songs. And as for the location of the celebratory dinner: home. "It was just a small thing with her family," says the source. "Her mother cooked."

A very Technicolor weekend

1. Paula Abdul attended the Charitable Foundation Federation gala auction on Saturday in Moscow, Russia.

2. Selena Gomez and **Katy Perry** were seatmates at Nickelodeon's 25th Annual Kids' Choice Awards held at Galen Center on Saturday in Los Angeles.

3. Nicki Minaj performed onstage at FOX's "American Idol" Season 11 Top 9 To 8 Live Elimination Show on Thursday in Hollywood.

4. Justin Bieber and host **Will Smith** were doused in green slime at Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday.

5. Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson arrived to celebrate her 37th birthday at 1 OAK Las Vegas at the Mirage Hotel & Casino on Friday in Las Vegas. According to People, she spent the night table-hopping from the one she shared with husband **Josh Duhamel** and **Ne-Yo** to one where **Michael Jordan** was sitting.

6. Vanessa Lachey showed off her baby bump (and husband **Nick Lachey**) on the red carpet during the opening of Marquee Nightclub at The Star on Friday in Sydney.

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2-A: CHRISTOPHER POLK/BCA2012/GETTY IMAGES FOR BCA
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myentertainment

Grandma waves good-bye to the Big Apple

To what does legendary American circus clown Barry Lubin credit his successful run of 25 seasons with Big Apple Circus? Good advice — and lots of it.

Lubin, whose beloved Grandma character has earned him international fame, remembers his early days clowning around at Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College with teacher and clown extraordinaire, Lou Jacobs.

"He used to say, 'If they laugh, it's funny; if they don't laugh, it's not funny,'" says Lubin of his mentor's simple but lasting advice. "He had a love for the audience, but he never had to say, 'I love you.' It showed in his work."

So what's next for Lubin? A new chapter of independent performing, mentoring and teaching in Europe. But first, Big Apple Circus crowds will get one more chance to feel the love that shines through the glasses of everyone's favorite gray-haired, red-frocked, water-spitting, treadmill-running, mischievous grandma.

According to Lubin, the inspiration for Grandma came from the senior citizens that he used to see walking up and down the boardwalk when he was a child in his hometown of Atlantic City, N.J.

Says Lubin: "I was lucky enough to choose a character that is generally a beloved figure — the parents are the discipline, and the grandparents get to spoil the kids."

JONATHON DONALDSON
letters@metro.us

BERTRAND GUAY/BIG APPLE CIRCUS

▶ This may be the last chance Boston audiences get to visit with Grandma.

The communing process

Is traditional American circus worried about the rise of the artsy, Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil? According to Lubin, they can co-exist very well: "I think that Cirque is really so much about the technical aspects of circus. The Big Apple Circus has always prided itself on having charismatic performers that make real contact with the audience. That's not the same goal that Cirque du Soleil is going for. We've maintained this small, intimate venue of 1,500-1,700 seats — a basic ring that is dirt with a carpet on top of it, and a live band — through all these years. It's really this communing process between the performer and the audience."

If you go

▶ **Big Apple Circus: 'Dream Big'**
Grandma's Farewell Tour
Through May 13
Boston City Hall Plaza
$15-$100, 888-541-3750
www.bigapplecircus.org

TV watch list

'Adventure Time'

ANIMATED. Finn plays with fire — literally — when he and his magical dog Jake encounter the Flame Princess, whom our boy-hero falls for in this cheeky, whimsical animated series. **Season premiere, 7:30 p.m., Cartoon Network**

'The Voice'

REALITY. It's two times the Adam Levine-Blake Shelton banter from here to the season finale, as "The Voice" begins live performances on Mondays and elimination episodes on Tuesdays, starting tonight. **8 p.m., NBC**

'American Masters'

DOCUMENTARY. Margaret Mitchell, who penned the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Gone with the Wind," and Harper Lee, who won her own Pulitzer for "To Kill a Mockingbird," are honored with documentaries: "Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel" (9 p.m.) and "Harper Lee: Hey, Boo" (10 p.m.). **PBS**

'Bones'

DRAMA. Brennan and Booth celebrate the birth of their baby girl! But they must also investigate a dead prisoner found in a sewer pipe. **8 p.m., Fox** AMBER RAY

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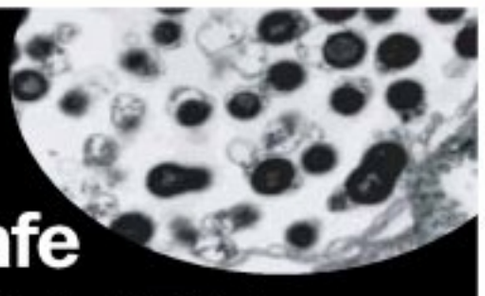
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A horror of a different color

Adam Green leaves Massachusetts for Hollywood and comes back with 'Holliston,' a new sitcom about trying to break into the slasher movie biz So he's able to throw fake blood on naked women, obviously

The former producer of your local cable commercials on the South Shore has graduated to national scripted television.

Adam Green, the director of indie slasher comedy "Hatchet" and Sundance-premiered drama "Frozen," retreated to his local roots for his TV series debut, "Holliston," which premieres tomorrow night on FEARnet.

Set locally in the town of Holliston, the "Big Bang Theory" meets "Evil Dead 2" sitcom tells the tale of two college grads, Adam (Green) and Joe (Joe Lynch), who aspire to be successful horror filmmakers. Yet, the best friends are poor twentysomethings who host late-night horror movie marathons at the local cable station. Green, who grew up in Holliston, says the show is autobiographical.

"This show embraces struggle," he says. And he's not just talking about the struggle to get from Holliston to Hollywood, but also the struggle to figure out which roommate finished the peanut butter.

"That's how broke we are," says Green, who is also the show's creator and producer. "It's funny to laugh now at that — but it's all real, even the relationship stuff: At the core of the show, my character is trying to get over the breakup with his childhood sweetheart."

But one big difference between Green's career in filmmaking and the show is that his previous life had no laugh track.

"In some ways, TV is a lot more fun because it moves so much faster and it's a lot more like live theater," he says, referring to the audience.

Green says his main motive for making "Holliston" is his passion for horror.

"I think that horror fans are misunderstood," he muses. "People think if you're a horror person, you're only into seeing people getting dismembered. Horror people are normal people. … They just happen to be into this stuff."

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO
letters@metro.us

Bloodlust

With "Holliston," Green may have found the perfect way to combine his interest in media production with horror — and he has certainly found his way out of being a poor twentysomething.

"In no other career do you find yourself standing in a swamp in the middle of the night, throwing fake blood on naked women," he says.

Twisted characters

The show also features Twisted Sister singer Dee Snider as a wannabe rocker who is the boss of the station and Oderus Urungus from GWAR as Adam's imaginary friend in his closet.

"Although he's known for Twisted Sister, he's spent the last 20 years trying to [get away from that image]. … But, he embraced the character," Green says of Snider.

Of the GWAR involvement, he says, "I've been friends with him for years. … Out of all of the things that GWAR has accomplished, I think that the last thing that I'd think is Oderus on a TV sitcom."

FEARNET

▶ From left, Joe Lynch, Dee Snider and Adam Green star in "Holliston," premiering on FEARnet tomorrow at 10:30 p.m.

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Advice

Move from temp to employee

These days, you need to be creative when it comes to a job search — and that includes being open to temporary positions. Once you have your foot in the door as a temp, though, how do you go about turning that into a secure position?

"Make sure you speak up," insists Monster.com's senior editor, Charles Purdy. "If you're freelancing directly with the company, speak to HR and to not only your managers, but other managers, about your willingness to go full-time."

Keeping quiet won't help you when trying to segue into a permanent position. "Some firms may assume that you prefer temp jobs for a number of reasons," suggests John Millikin, former VP of HR at Motorola.

You may be unofficially interviewing for a long-term job. "Keep in mind that a temp position is often used to determine whether a person will fit into the organization's culture and work relationships," says Millikin.

And this interview should work both ways. Ask yourself the following questions, suggests Millikin: "Would you be happy working there? Do you like the people with whom you would be working? Once hired, would there be opportunities to grow and develop there?"

JULIA WEST

IMAGE SOURCE

▶ Want to stick around? Make sure your managers know it.

Winning isn't everything

If your temp job doesn't turn into a hired position, stay positive about the experience.

"You can still leverage the contacts and connections you made and the expertise you gained," says Gautam Godhwani, CEO at SimplyHired.com. "For future opportunities at a different company in the same industry, you'll already have a leg up on the competition and some insider knowledge."

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When the military meets the quad

New book 'Arms and the University' traces the ROTC's rocky history on college campuses

Why the authors welcome the program's return to elite schools

GETTY IMAGES

Cadets train at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Over the last few years, ROTC programs have begun to return to elite universities including Harvard, Columbia, Stanford and Yale. It's the latest development in a century-long struggle between university and military culture in the United States.

Next month, Cambridge University Press will release the first comprehensive analysis of this fraught, ever-evolving relationship: "Arms and the University: Military Presence and the Civic Education of Non-Military Students," by Donald Alexander Downs and Ilia Murtazashvili.

In 14 chapters, the book traces ROTC history from the program's meager beginnings in 1916 to its banishment from campuses in the '60s and from the "don't ask, don't tell" controversy to ROTC's return to the Ivy League. Along the way, Downs and Murtazashvili argue for a more substantive military presence on all U.S. campuses.

"It's not a left-right issue in the end. Bringing the ROTC back was originally kind of a right-wing issue, led by conservative groups on campus," says Downs, a professor of political science, law and journalism at the University of Wisconsin. "But after 9/11, people on the left started agreeing that there is something to this argument of equal recognition for military students — civic equality, and broadening the university's mind to this reality."

Closing the gap

After authoring "Arms and the University," Downs is pleased to see ROTC programs returning to revered institutions — but dismayed by the growing gap between privileged universities and the military.

"America has the most prominent position in the world, and the military helps secure that. There's just something wrong when members of the elite don't contribute in a direct way to that, because they're the ones that get the most privilege out of the system," he says.

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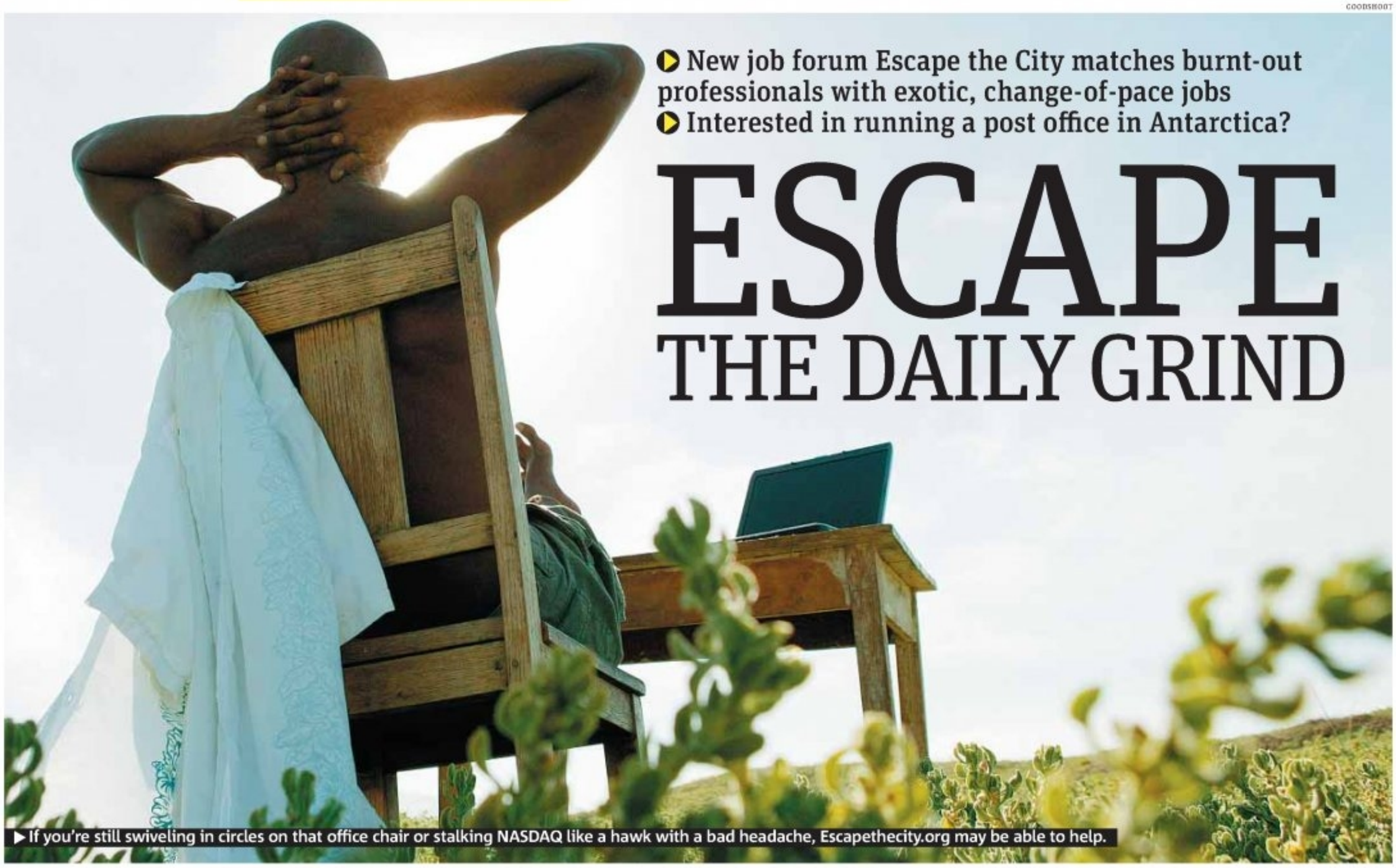

- New job forum Escape the City matches burnt-out professionals with exotic, change-of-pace jobs
- Interested in running a post office in Antarctica?

ESCAPE THE DAILY GRIND

▶ If you're still swiveling in circles on that office chair or stalking NASDAQ like a hawk with a bad headache, Escapethecity.org may be able to help.

Former Goldman Sachs executive director Greg Smith isn't the only restless professional fidgeting with his too-tight tie.

After Smith's recent resignation, countless cubicle-captives have been flocking to Escape the City, an organization whose mission statement dares workers to "Stop Dreaming and Start Planning. Don't Wait for Permission. Do Something Different."

In fact, in the week following Smith's resignation, Escape the City's website registered a four- fold increase in hits and overall membership.

Founded by two ex-management consultants from London's corporate nucleus, Escape the City "showcases exciting opportunities for a community of talented corporate professionals and employers looking to change up the game," says team member Mikey Howe.

Having recently expanded from London's financial district to New York City's, the organization has discovered antsy sentiments stemming beyond Wall Street.

"We originally targeted people in standard corporate positions like finance, law and accounting, but we've actually tapped into something that is relatively universal," says Howe. "Our demographic is mostly 20- and 30-year-olds, but I get e-mails every day from people who have been working for 30-plus years in a wide range of industries they're now leaving."

Not only does the site offer job postings from Cambodian resort management to sustainability work in Sierra Leone, it's also a neighborhood-friendly forum. "We are very member-focused. Any of our members can reach out to communities of escapees, learning from those who came from similar backgrounds or entered their particular field of interest," says Howe. "It's a great mix of people both offering and looking for help."

TIFFANY KANG
letters@metro.us

Job requirements

Escape the City's job listings are far from arbitrary adventures in the wilderness. Partner companies must offer "jobs that match at least one of our four criteria: social impact, entrepreneurial, exotic location and exciting products," says Howe.

Ask a pro

Break into the fashion industry

Missouri State professor Michele Granger wrote the book on breaking into the fashion industry — three times over. "Fashion Entrepreneur-ship: Retail Business Planning" and "The Fashion Intern" are both in their second editions. Plus, "Fashion: The Industry and Its Careers" is a must-read for anyone curious about a career in the field.

▶ Michele Granger

What's a good first step for breaking into the fashion industry?

Retail work — especially for kids that are still in high school. You get exposed to the products, management and sales. For college students, it's a step they can take before they move in at a higher level after graduation.

What degrees should undergrads consider?

There are really two primary avenues. One is a degree in fashion design or fashion product development; the other is fashion merchandising. Design skews toward the artistic, creative people. Merchandising is more of the business end.

The fashion industry seems to embody myriad industries — from finance to creative design.

Fashion is a lifestyle. It runs the gamut: what you put in your house, your stationary, what you put on your body. Add to that an incredible amount of news and journalism about the industry — publications and websites. If you figure out your skill set, you'll likely find a direction within the industry.

"[Fashion] runs the gamut. ... If you figure out your skill set, you'll likely find a direction within the industry." GRANGER

Is there room for altruism in a fashion industry career?

There are more and more nonprofits and others within the industry doing wonderful work: Housing Works and TOMS are just two. A lot of students say, "I don't want to be part of an industry that's frivolous and wasteful." We make sure to cover moral and ethical issues in our coursework at Missouri State, and any good program should do that.

BRUCE WALSH

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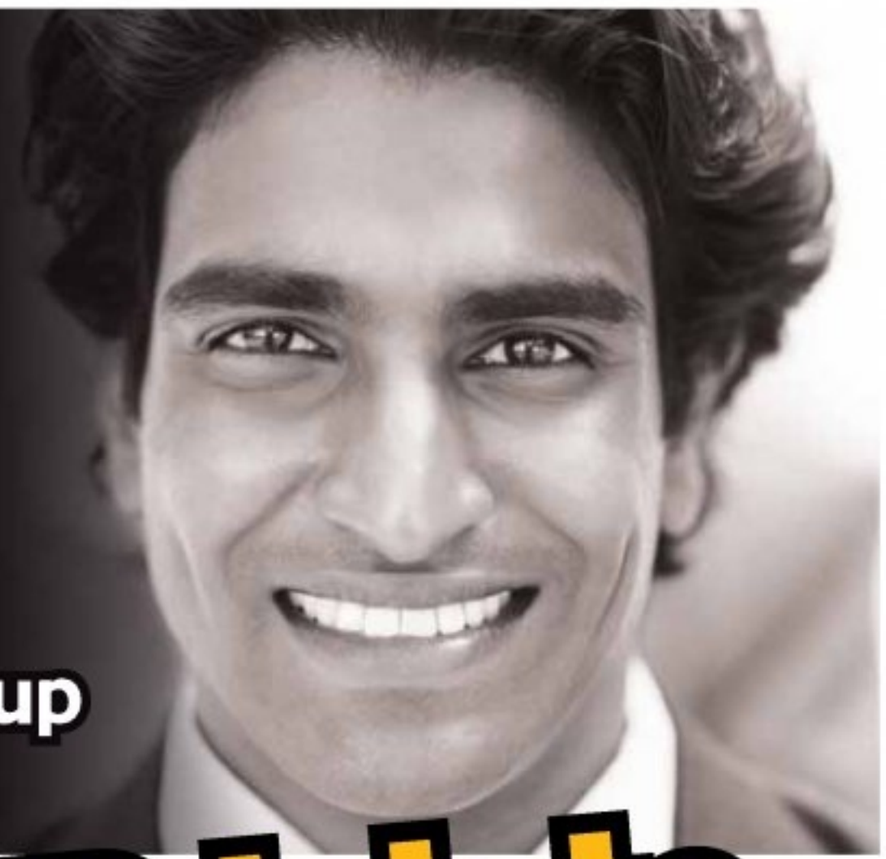

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Lottery mania could yield better results

Can we all agree that giving $640 million to potentially one person, or even a few people, is obscene and completely stupid? What are they going to spend it on — 10,000 yachts, 900 mansions? It's too much. They'd have been better to announce, "We are going to pick 5,000 winners to split it." Why don't we create a more intelligent lottery where more people automatically win each week, but win $100,000 a year for the rest of their lives? I bet most Americans, if it were put to a vote, would choose this method, because their odds of winning would be infinitely better. Also, if 1,000 people every single week won $100,000 per year, this would help our economy more and reduce unemployment too! It also means they wouldn't go insane like the winners who receive too much. And it means they wouldn't be mugged, like a person who wins millions is too often!

LIAM KIRCHBERGER, VIA E-MAIL

More than half a billion dollars? Wow, that's insane! At work, everyone talked about what they would do with some of the money. I couldn't really think of anything but the basics!

VINCENT C-FLEMING, VIA E-MAIL

Prayer as health care? Good luck

A recent survey found that 25 percent of Americans believe prayer is an effective form of health care. These 25 percent should not be forced to buy health care insurance. But don't you dare show up at the emergency room! Just duct tape the Bible to your gunshot wound and use your rosary beads to form a tourniquet.

ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

"No person can be loyal to the Constitution and uphold the charter of the U.N."

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FRANK ST. GEORGE, VIA E-MAIL

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Obama sold voters out to Russia

RE: "PRESIDENT OBAMA ON TRIAL FOR THE TRUTH": Mr. Beschler, to your critique of my letter: "People like Minkin" (thank you for being polite) will "read malevolence" into what Obama whispered to Medvedev over the hot mic since we find it very disappointing that our President would attempt, for re-election sake alone, to hide his true intentions from the American people and yet to share those with the government of a foreign country, especially such a strong rival of ours. What you call his "pretty ambiguous statement" is in fact crystal clear — to make concessions to Russia and to scale down our missile defense of Europe, which also telegraphs his weakness, both as a leader and as a diplomat, to our allies and enemies alike. Frankly, his chances for re-election have just suffered a huge blow. And I'm not a Republican, if that's what you thought.

GAROLD MINKIN, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** If this weekend didn't offer you much recreational relief, don't push yourself too heavily. Balance your mental processes in order to move forward.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** You won't be compelled to take some time to help assuage the needs of others, but you'll feel good about yourself if you do. Devote as much time as you feel you can to the process.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You'll come up with a rather ingenious concept — and because you're a natural-born salesperson, you shouldn't have any problem selling it to the powers that be.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** This is one of those days when you could be inclined to be a bit loose with your resources and easily spend them on something you enjoy rather than on what you need. Be careful.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Sometimes getting others to do something that you're eminently qualified to do for yourself can be stupid. Delegating some of your work might be deleterious rather than helpful.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** This is one of those days when you will be far more effective playing a supportive role rather than a starring one. Position yourself where you'll be able to do the most good.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Because your affairs have a better chance of working out than you anticipate, don't let yourself get discouraged over something petty. Stay positive and optimistic throughout the day.

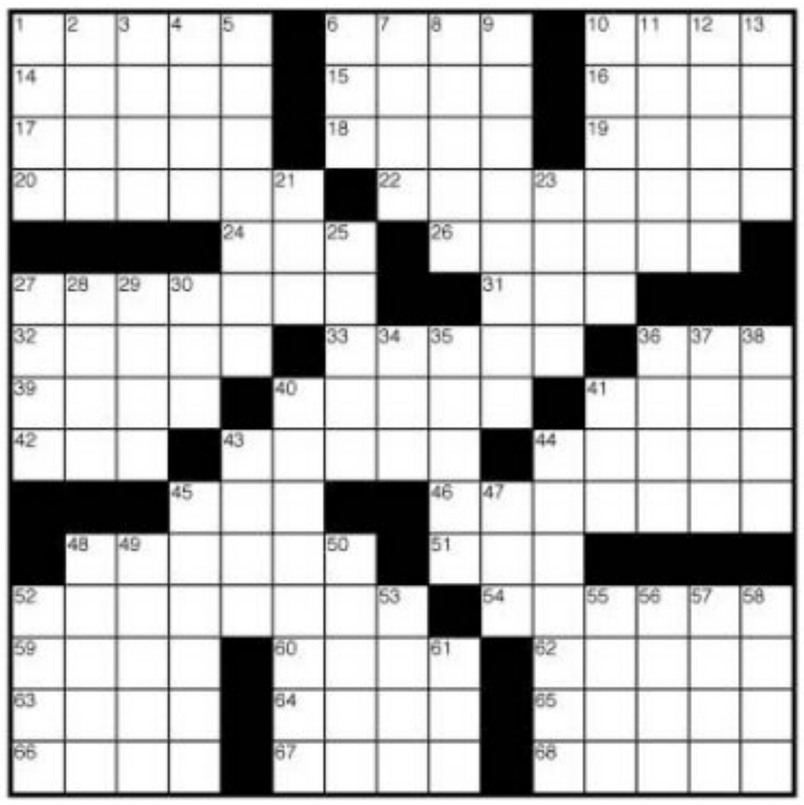
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** By staying positive, others will admire the way you handle things and their approbation will enhance your image even further. Having a good attitude makes for success.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Because you'll have implicit faith in whatever your position happens to be today, you'll be easily aroused to a righteous defense. You're in the right, and you should have no problems making your points.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Don't hesitate to trade on the business acumen of a trusted associate. A joint endeavor in which you're involved will be far more promising with her or him on board.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you sense that making a concession or a compromise can be to your ultimate benefit, you'd be right. This is one of those times when giving can be the key to getting.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Your chances for achieving success will be increased if you make sure your goal is clearly defined. It might be better to have only one major target at a time. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



Across
1 Scale a peak
6 B-movie crook
10 Distance measure
14 Refuse to conform
15 Unwritten test
16 Operating system
17 Farewell
18 Profound
19 Ocean fish
20 All for naught
22 Rainbow, in physics
24 Groovy
26 Mountain refrains
27 Whirlwind
31 Cohort of Bela
32 Loaf around
33 Enjoy (2 wds.)
36 Knows how
39 "Jabberwocky" start
40 Cancel a launch
41 Dove shelter
42 U-turn from NNE
43 Fix up a building
44 More in touch
45 Rte. mappers
46 Sauteed
48 Heavy-duty paper
51 Shrill bark
52 Choker or chain
54 Year-end ornament
59 Gas or tel.
60 Ex-NFL coach Chuck __
62 "__ Get Your Gun"
63 Rich source
64 Quartet minus one
65 Herman's Hermits lead
66 Bewildered
67 Pitfall
68 Had

Down
1 Gizzard
2 Zeus visited her as a swan
3 Hieroglyphics bird
4 Get acquainted
5 Arctic mammal (2 wds.)
6 Zippy's word
7 Goddess of strife
8 Quebec peninsula
9 Choral group (2 wds.)
10 Meat dish
11 Habituate
12 "Peanuts" kid
13 Midterm or final
21 Karate level
23 __ suey
25 Deciduous tree
27 PC screens
28 Hedge shrubs
29 Lobster pincer
30 Vegas lead-in
34 A Knute successor
35 Roly-poly
36 Mass. neighbor
37 Suits to __ __
38 Bookish type
40 Caulks or varnishes
41 Raven's call
43 Tout's hangout
44 Opera heroine, often
45 Short sock
47 Untrained
48 Ditto (2 wds.)
49 Etching fluids
50 Kind of squash
52 Declare invalid
53 Essayist's pen name
55 Adequate, way back
56 Familiar auth.
57 Pitchfork part
58 Take to heart
61 Fireplace necessity

			6			2		
1							8	3
8			3		7	1		9
	3	6		5	2			
	5						3	
			7	3		8	5	
3		9	2		4			7
5	7							6
		2			5			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

6	9	3		1				7
				7				2
7		2		3		9	8	
	8		3			4		
		7			5		1	
	7	4		9		6		1
3				6				
1				5		3	7	9

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

B	A	L	I	■	H	I	C	K	S	■	R	A	M	S
O	M	E	N	■	A	W	A	I	T	■	U	T	A	H
Z	E	S	T	■	S	O	T	T	O	■	M	O	D	E
O	N	E	A	L	■	■	S	T	R	I	P	P	E	D
■	■	■	K	O	P	S	■	Y	E	L	L	■	■	■
D	A	N	E	G	E	L	D	■	■	L	I	F	T	S
R	N	A	■	O	C	E	A	N	■	S	N	A	R	E
A	S	P	S	■	K	E	V	I	N	■	G	R	E	W
K	E	E	L	S	■	K	E	P	I	S	■	A	V	E
E	L	S	I	E	■	■	S	P	L	E	N	D	I	D
■	■	■	P	A	C	E	■	Y	E	T	I	■	■	■
I	M	P	A	N	E	L	S	■	■	H	M	O	N	G
G	L	O	W	■	L	A	T	T	E	■	B	E	T	E
E	L	L	A	■	T	R	A	I	L	■	L	I	S	T
R	E	L	Y	■	S	A	R	E	K	■	E	L	B	A

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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MLB PREVIEW

MONDAY
APRIL 2, 2012

Breaking down the AL East

Once Major League Baseball added an extra playoff team to both leagues for 2012, many predicted that the vaunted American League East would get three teams into the mix this October. After all, the Red Sox, despite their September from hell, would have made the postseason in 2011 if the current system was in place.

However, consider that the Yankees and Rays are just as formidable on paper as they were last year, if not more, and that the same can be said of the Blue Jays and even the Orioles.

But this season is first and foremost about the Red Sox taking care of in-house issues.

Bobby Valentine outlawed beer in the clubhouse (no word yet on the Popeye's) and has installed a disciplined work ethic that seems to have gotten the best out of the squad thus far.

If this team gets out to a start similar to last April, however, things will get ugly on Yawkey Way in a hurry. One of those hot starts that the Sox patented once upon a time will do wonders for a franchise that has a ton of question marks.

TONY LEE
sports@metro.us

AL East notes

The Yankees are the defending AL East champions, having won the division by six games last year with a 97-65 record. The Red Sox have not won the AL East since the 2007 season.

- **A-Rod's decline** Consider the precipitous decline in Alex Rodriguez' OPS over the past five years: 1.067, .965, .933, .847, and .823. He has averaged only 124.5 games since 2009.
- **Buchholz is back** The Sox rotation falls off a cliff if Clay Buchholz isn't all that he can be. Buchholz was 6-3 with a 3.48 ERA when his 2011 season came to an early end due to a back injury. That sort of effectiveness over a full year will provide Boston with a huge lift.
- **O's power** Baltimore smacked 191 home runs last season, good for fourth in the AL, and they ranked seventh in runs scored, the team's best ranking in that category since 2004.

BOSTON

VEGAS: 90 wins METRO prediction: 89-73

Outlook: No need to rehash all that occurred between Sept. 1 and the start of spring training. All that matters is that the Red Sox solidify their rotation and bullpen and that players looking for a bounce-back season (primarily Carl Crawford, Kevin Youkilis and Clay Buchholz) have it. This is a team that could press a bit if it starts slow and the schedule doesn't help out in that regard — Boston's first five opponents (Detroit, Toronto, Tampa Bay, Texas, New York) averaged 92 wins last year while their next five averaged 71.2. It may take time for an antsy fan base to be satisfied. Although September gets all the attention in last year's debacle, April was also a mess. Remember 2-10? If the Sox simply went 4-8 in that opening stretch they would've made the playoffs.

Key additions: OF Cody Ross, RP Andrew Bailey, RP Mark Melancon.

Key losses: RP Jonathan Papelbon, SP Tim Wakefield, C Jason Varitek, RF J.D. Drew, SS Marco Scutaro.

NEW YORK

GETTY IMAGES

VEGAS: 93 wins METRO prediction: 94-68

Outlook: The sneaky assassins of the offseason remained quiet before gaining two quality arms in the same day by signing Hiroki Kuroda and trading for Michael Pineda. With Ivan Nova, Phil Hughes, Freddy Garcia and now Andy Pettitte in the mix, there are candidates to fill out the back of what could be a very solid rotation. Despite the loss of Joba Chamberlain, the bullpen figures to be very good once again (it ranked first in the AL in ERA by a wide margin last year) and there hasn't been a weak offense in the Bronx. It never gets the ink, but New York's bullpen has been its best asset in recent years. Even with preseason losses to Damaso Marte and Pedro Feliciano, and in-season setbacks for Chamberlain and Rafael Soriano, the Yanks' relief corps was dominant in 2011.

Pettitte

Key additions: Pineda, Kuroda, Pettitte, DH Raul Ibanez.

Key losses: C Jorge Posada, SP Bartolo Colon, RP Luis Ayala.

BALTIMORE

VEGAS: 69.5 wins METRO: 71-91

Outlook: The O's have not had a winning percentage higher than .457 over the past seven seasons, but are a .470 club (103-116) since Buck Showalter took over late in 2010. Not good, but not nearly as bad as some of the results under previous skippers Sam Perlozzo and Dave Trembley. Can Dan Duquette get the O's on track?

Key additions: Hammel, Lindstrom, OF Endy Chavez, RP Luis Ayala.

Key losses: DH Vladimir Guerrero, OF Luke Scott, SS Cesar Izturis.

TAMPA BAY

VEGAS: 86.5 wins METRO : 91-71

Outlook: Yours truly penned these words for another outlet last Aug. 16, when the Rays were nine games behind the Sox and Yanks, long before all y'all even considered a September swoon: "Don't quit on [Joe] Maddon's bunch just yet." The reason for that statement was that the teams had to play 10 more times and Tampa's pitching was far superior to that of the Red Sox.

Key additions: 1B Carlos Pena, DH Luke Scott, C Jose Molina, IF Jeff Keppinger.

Key losses: OF/DH Johnny Damon, 1B Casey Kotchman, RP Juan Cruz, C Kelly Shoppach.

TORONTO

VEGAS: 80.5 wins METRO: 82-80

Outlook: John Farrell's impact on the Jays was quite evident in 2011. There just wasn't enough talent. But 2012 might be different. An extremely young and talented pitching staff, led by 15-game winner Ricky Romero, has another year of seasoning and may soon be able to match what was and still is a solid offensive attack.

Key additions: C Jeff Mathis, IF Omar Vizquel.

Key losses: C Jose Molina, RP Jon Rauch, RP Frank Francisco, RP Shawn Camp.

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Players that will define the 2012 MLB season ◗ Some familiar, some not-so-familiar names that will take the summer by storm ◗ Pujols shifts power back to AL ◗ Young guns Darvish, Harper ready to break out

There does not appear to be a runaway, surefire, can't-miss World Series contender in either the American or National Leagues this year.

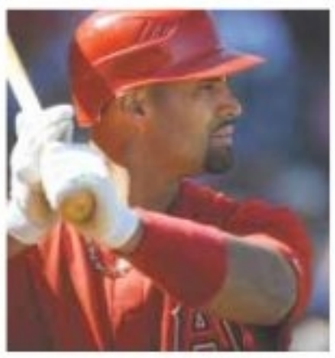
To figure out which teams will play late into October, Metro looks at a variety of impact players from both leagues that will make-or-break Fall Classic chances.

JEFF GOLDBERG
sports@metro.us

Yu Darvish

PITCHER, RANGERS
Not since Dice-K has a pitcher from Japan created so much buzz. If he can have the same kind of impact that Matsuzaka had in his first season, the Rangers could well make it three World Series appearances in a row.

Albert Pujols

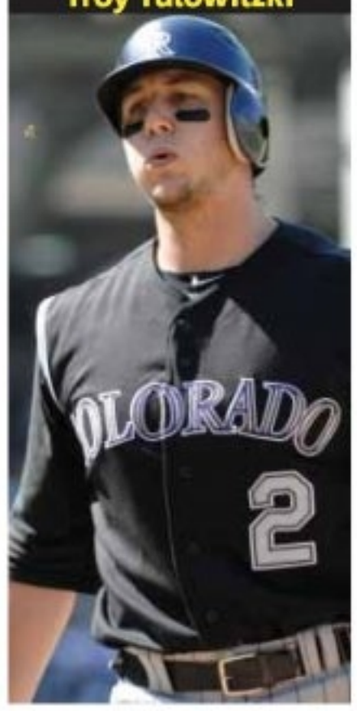


FIRST BASEMAN, ANGELS
The Angels might be the most stacked team on both sides of the ball in the American League, and the acquisition of Pujols is the linchpin. But, still, the lineup behind Pujols in L.A. is hardly Murderer's Row, and Pujols could easily get the Bonds treatment in his new league. How he adjusts could determine the American League pennant.

Matt Kemp

CENTER FIELD, DODGERS
Do you believe in Magic? Maybe things are finally looking up for the Dodgers, who have been looking up in the NL West standings for the past few years. But they still have Kemp, who is might be the best player in baseball no one knows about. Maybe some baseball Showtime in L.A. will finally make Kemp a star. Kemp batted .324 at the dish last year while driving in a career-high 126 runs with 39 homers.

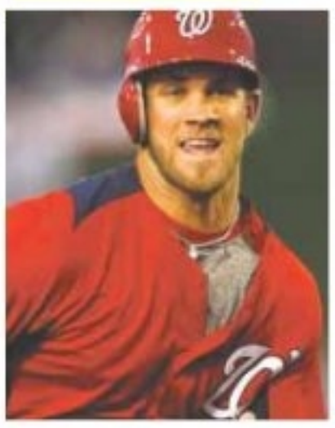
Troy Tulowitzki



SHORTSTOP, ROCKIES
If the National League is looking for an untainted star, it could perhaps find him in Colorado, where the All-Star shortstop is already being touted as an MVP candidate. The Rockies should be contenders in the West, and Tulo might finally be on the precipice of a monster season.

30
Tulowitzki blasted 30 homers in 2011 along with a career-high 105 RBI and a .916 OPS.

Bryce Harper



RIGHT FIELD, NATIONALS
Could the biggest news out of Washington this October take place on the baseball field? Anything can happen in an election year, and Harper will certainly be a candidate — for Rookie of the Year. The Nationals might even be a contender to unseat the incumbent Phillies, and Harper is expected to lead that campaign. The first overall pick in the 2010 MLB draft looks to be ready for the bright lights.

STRONG ARMS

ANALYSIS:

A look at some big arms that will play a big role in 2012:

Josh Beckett, Red Sox: The last time Beckett entered a Red Sox season so embattled was 2007, after he allowed 30 homers in a 2006 season that left many questioning his bona fides as an ace. Now, after clubhouse-gate, he once again must prove himself. In 2007, it resulted in a Cy Young-caliber performance.

Mariano Rivera, Yankees: Speculation is rampant that this will be the final season of Rivera's brilliant Yankees career. The godfather of closers, Rivera could well go out with another World Series ring. How he performs at age 42 will certainly go a long way to determining the success of the Yankees in 2012.

Jonathan Papelbon, Phillies: The Phillies offense enters the season decimated by injuries, with Ryan Howard and Chase Utley sidelined. But the starting pitching is still flush with aces, keeping pennant hopes alive. The margin for error is small, and if 'Pap' slips even a little, those knowledgeable fans in Philly will make his life miserable.

Justin Verlander, Tigers: The Tigers have plenty of offense, especially with the acquisition of Prince Fielder, giving the Tigers a deadly corner combo with Miguel Cabrera. But the Tigers' rotation is rather pedestrian 2 through 5. So as the mighty Verlander goes, so go the Tigers.

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Sox rotation is set

In the past week, the Red Sox have sent Jose Iglesias to the Minors and Alfredo Aceves back to the bullpen.

Both players have become fan favorites in spring training, but it seems the Sox are taking the conservative approach on both Iglesias and Aceves.

Felix Doubront and Daniel Bard will be the team's fourth and fifth starters to open the 2012 campaign, which begins Thursday in Detroit.

The left-handed Doubront has a 2-2 career record. He had a 2.70 ERA in Grapefruit League play this spring.

Bard is moving to the rotation after spending the last few seasons as the Sox setup man. The righty had a 3.33 ERA in 70 appearances in 2011. MATT BURKE

Bailey injured

Andrew Bailey, the Sox's new closer, may begin the season on the DL after a right thumb injury.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Daniel Bard secured the fifth and final spot in the Red Sox rotation yesterday.

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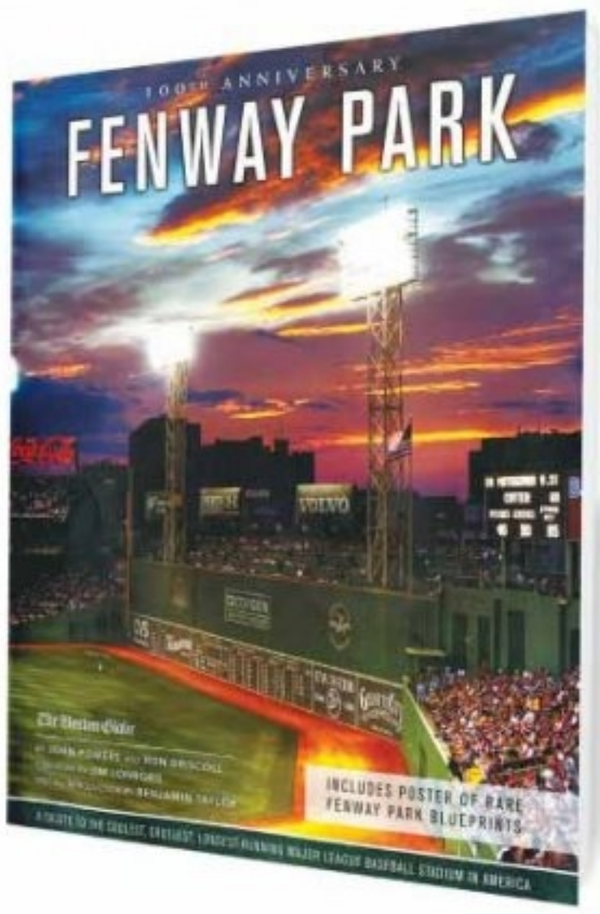

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Adult ADHD Trials

Are you:
- Between the ages of 18-60?
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- Interested in participating in a medication research study to treat your symptoms?

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- Ages 25-80
- Recovering alcoholics (Sobriety period of at least 4 weeks)

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